

Domain of the Cavemen



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Visitors in the Ghost Room, 1945. Photo by Ralph Gifford, Oregon Caves National Monument (OCNM) Museum and Archives Collections.

Domain of the Cavemen:

A Historic Resource Study of Oregon Caves National Monument

by Stephen R. Mark Historian



A view of Joaquin Miller's Chapel in the Oregon Caves by Ralph Gifford, 1937. (Photo courtesy of Oregon State University Archives.)

Cover Photos:

(top) High jinks at the crossing of the River Styx, 1950s. (Photo courtesy of the Josephine County Historical Society.)

(bottom) Billboard in Cave Junction, 1957. (Photo courtesy of Chas Davis.)

Great blocks of rock hang as by a thread from the ceiling, while on every side rocks of equal size lie in all conceivable shapes. Standing at the point of entry one looks at the opposite side and sees great cracks, yawning cavities with open mouths of blackness, dismal shadows, to which flickering lights give a ghoulish, dance-like appearance. Yes, the devil seems to be holding high carnival, while his imps would dance the night away.

W. G. Steel, describing the Ghost Room in "Josephine County Caves" (1888)



Maps in National Park Service brochure, 1936, by L. Howard Crawford. (OCNM Museum and Archives Collections.)